

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01
TRSE-00 IO-13 SSM-03 NEAE-00 /073 W
-----101554Z 124498 /47

P R 101434Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4381
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 0202

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT PFOR, IS, US
SUBJECT: FURTHER EDITORIAL REACTION ON U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN ISRAELI
ELECTION

REF: TEL AVIV 0174

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED: IN ADDITION TO THE JERUSALEM POST EDITORIAL
REFERRED TO IN REFTEL, OTHER ISRAELI PAPERS HAVE COMMENTED ABOUT THE
NYT'S EDITORIAL WHICH URGED ISRAELI VOTERS TO ELECT A STRONG GOVERN-
MENT. FOR EXAMPLE, JANUARY 9 YEDIOT AHRONOT SAID THE EDITORIAL
WAS "CRUDE INTERVENTION IN A PURELY ISRAELI MATTER. THOUGH
WE ARE DEEPLY INVOLVED IN TROUBLES AT HOME, THIS DOES NOT GIVE
OUTSIDERS THE RIGHT TO INTERFERE."

2. IN AN EXCEPTIONALLY STRONG COMMENT THE INDEPENDENT MAARIV
SAID JANUARY 9 THAT ALTHOUGH THE NYT MOTTO IS TO PRINT ALL
THE NEWS THAT'S FIT TO PRINT, THIS EDITORIAL SHOULD NEVER
HAVE BEEN PRINTED, PARTICULARLY BECAUSE IT CONTAINS A
WARNING ABOUT WHAT THE U.S. MIGHT DO IF ISRAELIS DID NOT
VOTE THE RIGHT WAY. THE EDITORIAL CONCLUDES: "WITHOUT
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DISCUSSING THE ACTUAL ADVICE GIVEN BY OUR NEW YORK
COLLEAGUES OR QUESTIONING THEIR MOTIVES, WHICH MAY WELL
HAVE BEEN SINCERE CONCERN FOR THE PEACE OF THE MIDDLE
EAST AND FOR AMERICAN INTERESTS IN THE REGION, WE FIRMLY
REJECT THIS ATTEMPT TO INTERVENE IN AN INTERNAL ISRAELI
CONTROVERSY. THERE HAVE BEEN INSTANCES IN RECENT HISTORY
OF INTERVENTION BY THE CIA IN THE INTERNAL ISSUES OF OTHER

STATES, AND OPEN INTERVENTION BY U.S. POLITICIANS--SUCH AS THE WARNINGS TO ITALY OF THE DIRE CONSEQUENCES OF A COMMUNIST ELECTION VICTORY. THERE HAVE ALSO BEEN WARNINGS TO ISRAELI STATESMEN NOT TO ATTEMPT TO INFLUENCE THE U.S. VOTER IN THE RECENT ELECTIONS. BUT ONE WOULD EXPECT A RESPONSIBLE AND RESPECTABLE JOURNAL SUCH AS THE NYT TO REFRAIN FROM SUCH CRUDE INTERVENTION."

3. IN A LESS CRITICAL VEIN HATZOFEH (NRP) NOTED THAT THE EDITORIAL FOLLOWED THE FAILURES OF THE RABIN GOVERNMENT AND THE QUARRELS WITHIN THE LABOR PARTY AND THAT IT ADVISED ISRAELI CITIZENS TO CHOOSE A STRONG GOVERNMENT. THE PAPER CONCLUDED THAT WHETHER THE NYT OPINIONS WERE ITS OWN OR THOSE OF THE NEW ADMINISTRATION, THE EDITORIAL WAS ANOTHER ILLUSTRATION OF THE NEED FOR A STRONG ISRAELI GOVERNMENT. END UNCLASSIFIED

4. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL: COMMENT: THIS REACTION ILLUSTRATES AGAIN THE GREAT SENSITIVITY HERE TO ANY ALLEGATION THAT ISRAEL IS RESPONSIBLE IN ANY WAY FOR LACK OF PROGRESS TOWARD SOLVING THE ARAB-ISRAELI DISPUTE. IT ALSO ILLUSTRATES THE OVERWHELMING IMPORTANCE OF THE "AMERICAN CONNECTION," A TENDENCY TO BELIEVE THAT IMPORTANT MEDIA COMMENT IN THE U.S. IS "INSPIRED," AND A CONTINUING SUSPICION OF THOSE (UNDEFINED) "ARABISTS" WHO ARE ALLEGED TO HAVE SUCH A KEY ROLE IN THE DEPARTMENT. THE QUICKNESS AND SHARPNESS OF THE REACTION IN THE PRESENT CASE MUST ALSO BE SEEN AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF THE COMPETITION BETWEEN RABIN AND PERES AND THE ENSUING CONTEST BETWEEN THE ALIGNMENT

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AND THE OTHER POTENTIAL PARTIES WHO ARE JOCKEYING FOR POSITION IN THE RACE TO THE POLLS. END COMMENT. END

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 10-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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